Edward G. Williams (EW 8737) Frank S. Occhipinti (FO 7204) STEWART OCCHIPINTI, LLP 65 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10018 (212) 239-5500

Attorneys for Defendant Edward Litwak

UNITED STATES DISTIRCT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

GUCCI AMERICA, INC.,

Plaintiff,

.....X

-against-

ANSWER TO
AMENDED COMPLAINT

07 Civ. 6820 (RMB)(JCF)

JENNIFER GUCCI, JENCO DESIGNS, LLC, JENNICOR, LLC, JENNY GUCCI COFFEE AND GELATO COMPANY, INC., VERATEX, INC., COLLEZIONE DI CASA, INC., E.L. ERMAN- DEAD SEA COSMETICS CORP., ELE BRANDS ENTERPRISES, INC., GBN WATCH COLLECTION, INC., GBN GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK, EDWARD LITWAK d/b/a ED LITWAK & ASSOCIATES, ABC CORPORATIONS 1-10, and JOHN DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

Defendant, EDWARD LITWAK (hereinafter, "Mr. Litwak" or "Defendant"), by his attorneys, Stewart Occhipinti, LLP, for his Answer to Plaintiff's Amended Complaint (the "Complaint"):

1. To the extent the allegations contained in Paragraph "1" of the Complaint purport to state the alleged bases for this action, such allegations require no response,

except Defendant denies that he engaged in any such wrongful conduct as alleged or any such conduct which violated the laws of the United States and or the State of New York.

- 2. The allegations contained in paragraph "2" of the Complaint involve questions of law to which no response is required by the answering Defendant, and the Court is respectfully referred to the statutory and common law basis alleged by Plaintiff for a determination as to jurisdiction.
- 3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "3" of the Complaint that a "substantial part of the events giving rise to these claims occurred within this judicial district," and further denies the remaining allegations of the Complaint.
- 4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "4" of the Complaint.
  - 5. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "5" of the Complaint.
- 6. With respect to the allegations contained in paragraph "6", admits only that an entity known as Jenco Designs, LLC was a duly organized Delaware business corporation, but has been dissolved, and denies the remaining paragraphs contained therein. During the periods relevant to this action, Jenco Designs, LLC has not transacted any business.
- 7. With respect to the allegations contained in paragraph "7", admits only that an entity known as Jennicor, LLC, is a duly organized Delaware business corporation, and denies the remaining paragraphs contained therein. During the periods relevant to this action, Jennicor, LLC has not transacted any business.

- 8. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "8" of the Complaint.
- 9. The allegations of paragraph "9" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of
  the allegations of paragraph "9."
- 10. The allegations of paragraph "10" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of
  the allegations of paragraph "10."
- 11. The allegations of paragraph "11" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of
  the allegations of paragraph "11."
- 12. The allegations of paragraph "12" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of
  the allegations of paragraph "12."
- 13. The allegations of paragraph "13" are not directed to the answering Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required, Defendant denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph "13."
  - 14. The allegations of paragraph "14" are not directed to the answering

Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required, Defendant denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph "14."

- Denies the allegations of paragraph "15" of the Complaint, except admits that 15. Edward Litwak resides and maintains a place of business at 12868 Via Latina, Del Mar, California.
- The allegations of paragraph "16" are not directed to the answering 16. Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required, Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "16."
- With respect to the allegations contained in paragraph "17", admits that 17. Jenny Gucci Coffee and Gelato Company, Inc, is a duly organized Nevada business corporation with an address at 12868 Via Latina, Del Mar, California, and denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph "17."
- The allegations of paragraph "18" are not directed to the answering 18. Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required, Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "18."
- The allegations of paragraph "19" are not directed to the answering 19. Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required, Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "19."
- Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth 20. of the allegations contained in paragraph "20" of the Complaint.
- Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth 21. of the allegations contained in paragraph "21" of the Complaint.

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- 22. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "22" of the Complaint.
- 23. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "23" of the Complaint.
- 24. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "24" of the Complaint.
- 25. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "25" of the Complaint.
- 26. Answering Defendant denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to what Plaintiff allegedly "recently discovered" and denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph "26" of the Complaint.
- 27. The allegations of paragraph "27" are not directed to the answering Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required, Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "27."
- 28. With respect to the allegations contained in paragraph "28" of the Complaint, admits only that Jennifer Gucci has on one or more occasion sought unsuccessfully to register a mark or marks containing or comprised of the name Jennifer Gucci, and denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph "28" of the Complaint.
- 29. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "29" of the Complaint, except admits, upon information and belief, that Gemma Gucci is the natural daughter of Jennifer Gucci and Paolo Gucci.
  - 30. Admits the allegations of paragraph "30" of the Complaint.

- 31. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "31" of the Complaint.
- 32. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "32" of the Complaint.
- 33. The allegations of paragraph "33" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "33."
- 34. The allegations of paragraph "34" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "34."
- 35. The allegations of paragraph "35" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "35."
- 36. The allegations of paragraph "36" are not directed to the answering Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent a response is required, Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "36."
- 37. The allegations of paragraph "37" are not directed to the answering

  Defendant, and therefore require no response; but to the extent that a response is required,

  Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph "37."
- 38. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "38" of the Complaint, to the extent such allegations are directed to the answering Defendant.
- 39. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "39" of the Complaint, to the extent such allegations are directed to the answering Defendant.
  - 40. In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "40" of the Complaint,

repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 39 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.

- 41. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "41" of the Complaint.
- 42. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "42" of the Complaint.
- 43. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "43" of the Complaint.
- 44. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "44" of the Complaint.
- 45. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "45" of the Complaint.
- 46. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "46" of the Complaint.
- 47. In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "47" of the Complaint, repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 46 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.
  - 48. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "48" of the Complaint.
  - 49. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "49" of the Complaint.
  - 50. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "50" of the Complaint.
  - 51. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "51" of the Complaint.
  - 52. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "52" of the Complaint.
  - 53. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "53" of the Complaint.
- 54. In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "54" of the Complaint, repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 53 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.
  - 55. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "55" of the Complaint.
  - 56. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "56" of the Complaint.
  - 57. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "57" of the Complaint.

- 58. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "58" of the Complaint.
- 59. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "59" of the Complaint.
- In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "60" of the 60. Complaint, repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 59 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.
- 61. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "61" of the Complaint.
- Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth 62. of the allegations contained in paragraph "62" of the Complaint.
- 63. Paragraph "63" of Plaintiff's Complaint alleges conclusions of law, which require no response from the answering Defendant, and answering Defendant respectfully refers the Court to the statute cited by Plaintiff for determination of the issues alleged in paragraph "63."
  - 64. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "64" of the Complaint.
  - 65. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "65" of the Complaint.
  - 66. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "66" of the Complaint.
  - 67. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "67" of the Complaint.
  - 68. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "68" of the Complaint.
- 69. In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "69" of the Complaint, repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 68 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.
- Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth 70. of the allegations contained in paragraph "70" of the Complaint.

- 71. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "71" of the Complaint.
- 72. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "72" of the Complaint.
- 73. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "73" of the Complaint.
- 74. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "74" of the Complaint.
- 75. In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "75" of the Complaint, repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 74 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.
  - 76. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "76" of the Complaint.
  - 77. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "77" of the Complaint.
  - 78. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "78" of the Complaint.
  - 79. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "79" of the Complaint.
- 80. In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "80" of the Complaint, repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 79 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.
  - 81. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "81" of the Complaint.
  - 82. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "82" of the Complaint.
  - 83. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "83" of the Complaint.
  - 84. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "84" of the Complaint.
  - 85. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "85" of the Complaint.
- 86. In respect of the allegations contained in paragraph "86" of the Complaint, repeats and re-alleges his responses to paragraphs 1 through 85 of Plaintiff's Complaint, as forth above, as if the same were fully set forth herein.

- 87. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "87" of the Complaint.
- 88. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "88" of the Complaint.
  - 89. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "89" of the Complaint.
  - Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "90" of the Complaint. 90.
  - Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "91" of the Complaint. 91.
  - 92. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "92" of the Complaint.

# **FIRST DEFENSE**

Defendant has not advertised to the public, or marketed or sold any 93. product, or engaged in any other activity, in violation of any State or Federal statute; nor has Defendant engaged in any trademark infringement or unfair competition in violation of the common law of the State of New York.

# **SECOND DEFENSE**

Defendants' products, if and when advertised, marketed and sold to the 94. public, will be clearly identified as to origin, and will identify the source and design of the product so as to obviate any alleged likelihood or confusion or dilution.

# THIRD DEFENSE

95. Defendants' packaging and product, if and when marketed, advertised and sold to the public, will not be confusingly similar to Plaintiff's packaging and product.

# **FOURTH DEFENSE**

96. Defendants' packaging and product, if and when advertised, marketed and sold to the public, will not expressly or impliedly mislead consumers into believing that their product was designed or marketed by Plaintiff.

#### FIFTH DEFENSE

97. Defendants, if an when they advertise and market their products, do not intend to copy any nonfunctional, distinctive feature of Plaintiff's alleged distinctive design.

# **SIXTH DEFENSE**

98. Defendants have not commercially used in commerce a mark that causes dilution, or is confusingly similar, with Plaintiff's alleged protected design and marks.

# AS AND FOR A FIRST COUNTERCLAIM FOR RELIEF (Declaratory Judgment)

- 99. This Court has jurisdiction over this counterclaim under 28 United States Code, Sections 2201 and 2202, as ancillary to the Plaintiff's claims.
- 100. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Plaintiff and

  Defendants regarding the permissible use or uses of any mark containing or comprised of
  the words Jennifer Gucci, in whole or in part.
- 101. Defendant is entitled to have this Court declare the rights and other legal relations between Plaintiff and Defendants as to such permissible use or uses.
- 102. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant seeks a judicial determination by this Court that the use of a mark containing or comprised of Ms. Gucci's name together with the words "designed by", "created by" or "styled by" (or the like) do not infringe

upon any rights, if any, of Plaintiff. Such a judicial determination is necessary and appropriate at this time under the circumstances alleged.

WHEREFORE, Edward Litwak respectfully requests judgment in his favor:

- (a) Dismissing the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth claims for relief contained in Plaintiff's Complaint;
- (b) On the first counterclaim for relief for a declaratory judgment that Defendant's use of a mark containing or comprised of Ms. Gucci's name together with the words "designed by", "created by" or "styled by" (or the like) does not infringe upon any rights, if any, of Plaintiff;
- (c) For costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by Defendant in connection with this action and his declaratory judgment claim; and
  - (d) For such other and further relief as may be deemed just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York November 2, 2007

STEWART OCCHIPINTI, LLP

Edward G. Williams, Esq.

Frank S. Occhipinti Esq.

65 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10018

New York, New York 10018

(212) 239-5500

Attorneys for Defendant Edward Litwak